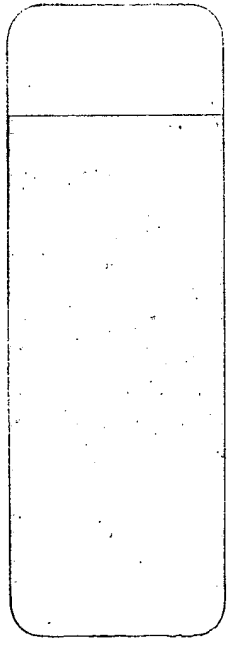


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STW

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590 03/17/2006
Kimberly V. Perry, Esq.
U.S. Surgical
A Division of Tyco Healthcare Group, LP
150 Glover Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06856



EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, CAMTU TRAN	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3743	
DATE MAILED: 03/17/2006	

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/718,195	11/20/2003	David C. Racenet	1879 CON III	9798
TITLE OF INVENTION: TROCAR SEAL SYSTEM				

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$1700	06/19/2006

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.
- B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or
- B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

7590 03/17/2006

Kimberly V. Perry, Esq.
U.S. Surgical
A Division of Tyco Healthcare Group, LP
150 Glover Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06856

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/718,195	11/20/2003	David C. Racenet	1879 CON III	9798
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TITLE OF INVENTION: TROCAR SEAL SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$1700	06/19/2006
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EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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NGUYEN, CAMTU TRAN	3743	604-167060
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1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

- ☐ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

The Director of the USPTO is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above. NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/718,195	11/20/2003	David C. Racenet	1879 CON III	9798
7590	03/17/2006		EXAMINER	
Kimberly V. Perry, Esq. U.S. Surgical A Division of Tyco Healthcare Group, LP 150 Glover Avenue Norwalk, CT 06856			NGUYEN, CAMTU TRAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3743	
DATE MAILED: 03/17/2006				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 342 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 342 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/718,195

Examiner

Camtu T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

RACENET ET AL.

Art Unit

3743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's RCE filed on February 27, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-13 and 16-19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>2/6/06 & 2/27/06</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to RCE & Preliminary Amendment

This Office Action is in response to applicant's RCE filed on February 27, 2006 and preliminary amendment filed on November 20, 2003. Claims 1-4 have been cancelled. Claims 5-19 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 5-13 and 16-19, drawn to a cannula assembly, classified in class 604, subclass 164.11.
- II. Claims 14 and 16, drawn to a seal assembly, classified in class 604, subclass 167.06.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because claim 5 does not set forth the details of the subcombination to the same extent as set forth in claim 14. The subcombination has separate utility such as the seal member would require at least one fabric layer and resilient material.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with Mr. Michael Switzer on December 7, 2005 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 5-13 and 16-19. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 14 and 15 have been withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on December 7, 2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6,702,787 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in amendment filed on December 7, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 14 and 15.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-13 and 16-19 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the art of record when considered alone or in combination neither renders obvious a cannula assembly for use in a surgical procedure, which comprises: a cannula member defining a longitudinal axis, the cannula member defining a longitudinal opening therethrough for passage of a surgical instrument; and a

sealing member extending across the longitudinal axis and having a predetermined shaped prior to insertion of the instrument, the sealing member comprising a fabric, the sealing member having an hourglass defining an aperture for the receipt of the instrument and arranged so that the insertion of the instrument causes the sealing member to resiliently contact the outer surface of the instrument to form a substantial seal therewith.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Camtu T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-499. The examiner can normally be reached on (M-F) 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry A. Bennett can be reached on 571-272-4791. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

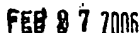
Art Unit: 3743

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Camtu Nguyen
March 7, 2006



Henry Bennett
Supervisor, Patent Examiner
Group 3700



PTO/SB/08A (10-01)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/718,195
Filing Date	11/20/2003
First Named Inventor	David C. Raccnet, et al
Art Unit	3743
Examiner Name	Camtu Tran Nguyen
Attorney Docket Number	1879CON3

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

**Examiner
Signature**

CTN ginen

Date Considered

3/7/04

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.**

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	10/718,195
				Filing Date	11/20/2003
				First Named Inventor	David C. Racent et al
				Group Art Unit	3743
				Examiner Name	Camtu Tran Nguyen
				Attorney Docket Number	1879CON3
Sheet	2	of	2		

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

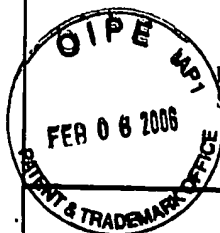
¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Form PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.
1879 CON III (203-2045CON III)SERIAL NO.
Not Yet Assigned

10/7/03, 195

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANTS
David Racenet, et al.FILING DATE
November 20, 2003GROUP ART UNIT
Not Yet Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
CTN	6,354,602	3/2002	Oldenburg			
	6,228,061	5/2001	Flatland et al.			
	6,079,692	6/2000	Powell			
	5,868,714	2/1999	Danks			
	5,865,807	2/1999	Blake, III			
	5,827,228	10/1998	Rowe			
	5,807,338	9/1998	Smith et al.			
	5,752,938	5/1998	Flatland et al.			
	5,709,664	1/1998	Vandenbroek et al.			
	5,645,538	7/1997	Richmond			
	5,634,908	6/1997	Loomas			
	5,628,732	5/1997	Antoon, Jr. et al.			
	5,613,954	3/1997	Nelson et al.			
	5,603,702	2/1997	Smith et al.			
	5,545,142	8/1996	Stephens et al.			
	5,496,280	3/1996	Vandenbroek et al.			
	5,463,010	10/1995	Hue et al.			
	5,411,483	5/1995	Loomas, et al.			
	5,407,433	4/1995	Loomas			
	5,395,342	3/1995	Yoon			
	5,385,553	1/1995	Hart et al.			
	5,350,364	9/1994	Stephens et al.			
	5,342,315	8/1994	Rowe et al.			
	5,308,336	5/1994	Hart et al.			
	5,300,036	4/1994	Mueller, et al.			
	5,300,033	4/1994	Miller			
	5,299,813	4/1994	McKenna			

EXAMINER

CT Nguyen

DATE CONSIDERED

3/7/06

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449

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(Use several sheets if necessary)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
CTN	5,290,304	3/1994	Storace			
	5,242,412	9/1993	Blake, III			
	5,226,891	7/1993	Bushatz et al.			
	5,221,264	6/1993	Wilk et al.			
	5,209,737	5/1993	Ritchart et al.			
	5,209,736	5/1993	Stephens et al.			
	5,201,714	4/1993	Gentelia et al.			
	5,197,955	3/1993	Stephens et al.			
	5,180,373	1/1993	Green et al.			
	5,167,636	12/1992	Clement			
	5,137,520	8/1992	Maxon et al.			
	5,127,626	7/1992	Hilal et al.			
	6,079,692	6/1992	Powell			
	5,104,383	4/1992	Shichman			
	5,073,169	12/1991	Raiken			
	5,064,416	11/1991	Newgard, et al.			
	5,053,016	10/1991	Lander			
	5,053,014	10/1991	Van-Heugten			
	5,041,095	8/1991	Littrell			
	5,038,756	8/1991	Kepley			
	5,015,000	5/1991	Perini			
	5,002,557	3/1991	Hasson			

EXAMINER

CTN

DATE CONSIDERED

3/7/06

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
CTN	5,000,745	3/1991	Guest et al.			
	4,998,740	3/1991	Tellier			
	4,966,588	10/1990	Rayman et al.			
	4,960,412	10/1990	Fink			
	4,943,280	7/1990	Lander			
	4,932,633	6/1990	Johnson et al.			
	4,929,235	5/1990	Merry et al.			
	4,917,668	4/1990	Haindl			
	4,909,798	3/1990	Fleischhacker et al.			
	4,889,349	12/1989	Muller			
	4,874,378	10/1989	Hillstead			
	4,874,377	10/1989	Newgard et al.			
	4,869,717	9/1989	Adair			
	4,857,062	8/1989	Russell			
	4,844,484	7/1989	Antonini et al.			
	4,844,483	7/1989	Iijima et al.			
	4,842,591	6/1989	Luther			
	4,758,225	7/1988	Cox et al.			
	4,723,550	2/1988	Bales et al.			
	4,715,360	12/1987	Akui et al.			
	4,705,511	11/1987	Kocak			
	4,673,393	6/1987	Suzuki et al.			

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
CTN	4,655,752	4/1987	Honkanen et al.			
	4,654,030	3/1987	Moll et al.			
	4,641,842	2/1987	Kataoka			
	4,626,245	12/1986	Weinstein			
	4,601,710	7/1986	Moll			
	4,588,195	5/1986	Antonini et al.			
	4,553,760	11/1985	Reed et al.			
	4,464,178	8/1984	Dalton			
	4,473,094	9/1984	Harris			
	4,447,237	5/1984	Frisch et al.			
	4,440,207	4/1984	Genatempo et al.			
	4,430,081	2/1984	Timmermans			
	4,387,879	6/1983	Tauschinski			
	4,386,756	6/1983	Muchow			
	4,338,689	7/1982	Zeig			
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	4,240,335	12/1980	Stucka et al.			
	4,177,997	12/1979	Cartwright			
	4,177,814	12/1979	Knepshield et al.			
	4,173,350	11/1979	Sieghartner			
	4,112,932	9/1978	Chiulli			

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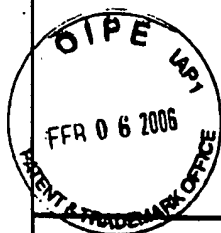
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CTN	4,000,739	1/1977	Stevens			
	3,994,287	11/1976	Turp et al.			
	3,907,310	9/1975	Dufour			
	3,853,127	12/1974	Spademan			
	3,818,515	6/1974	Goldberg et al.			
	3,565,078	2/1971	Vaillancourt et al.			
	3,421,509	1/1969	Fiore			
	RE 36,702	5/2000	Green et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
CTN	0051718	5/1982	EPO				
	0113520	7/1984	EPO				
	0312219	4/1989	EPO				
	3217118	8/1983	Germany				
	1482857	8/1977	Great Britain				
	WO 93/04717	3/1993	WIPO/PCT				
	WO98/53865	12/1998	WIPO/PCT				

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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